



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/988,566	11/20/2001	Makoto Okada	1359.1057	8743
21171 7590 06/25/2008 STAAS & HALSEY LLP SUITE 700 1201 NEW YORK AVENUE, N.W. WASHINGTON, DC 20005			EXAMINER TRAN, NGHI V	
			ART UNIT 2151	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 06/25/2008	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/988,566

Applicant(s)

OKADA ET AL.

Examiner

NGHI V. TRAN

Art Unit

2151

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05/27/2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7, 9 and 10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 and 9-10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. This office action is in response to the amendment filed on May 27, 2008. Claims 1, 4, 6, 7, and 9 have been amended. Claim 8 has been canceled. Claim 10 has been added. Therefore, claims 1-7, 9 and 10 are presented for further examination.

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

2. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on May 27, 2008 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-7 and 9-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Thatte et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,442,620 (hereinafter Thatte), in view of in view of

Klimczak et al., U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0023180 (hereinafter Klimczak), and further in view of Suzuki et al., United States Patent Number 5,842,198 (hereinafter Suzuki).

5. With respect to claims 1, 4, 6-7, and 10, Thatte teaches an object collaboration apparatus operated in accordance with a message and action relationship [see abstract and fig.2], comprising:

- a message receiving part for allowing each object to monitor and capture a message transmitted on a network [figs.6-7],
- a message and action relationship storing part [fig.4 and col.16, ln.13 - col.18, ln.65];
- an action executing part for executing processing in accordance with the contents of an action [col.4, lns.9-54],
- wherein the apparatus further comprises a message type classifying and matching part, the message type classifying and matching part stores and holds a message type dealt with by the message and action relationship storing part, analyzes a message type of a received message, conducts matching processing for determining whether or not a type of the received message is matched with the message type dealt with by the message and action relationship storing part, and if matched, gives the received message to the message and action relationship storing part [figs.2-5 and col.9, ln.15 - col.13, ln.28], and

- an action is executed in accordance with the message and action relationship based on the message given to the message and action relationship storing part [fig.9].

However, Thatte does not explicitly show a message and action relationship storing part for storing contents of an action that is a reaction to the message.

In an object collaboration apparatus, Klimczak suggests a message and action relationship storing part [figs.4-5] for storing contents of an action that is a reaction to the message [= action description].

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify Thatte in view of Klimczak by storing contents of an action that is a reaction to the message because this feature may correspond to many various types of functionality relating to the user interface, such as data display, data output and data transfer rather than to database access or database modification privileges [Klimczak, see abstract]. It is for this reason that one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention would have been motivated in order to decide on the subscriber's configuration strategy and to actually input the desired configuration information into the appropriate computer [Klimczak, paragraph 0011].

Further, Thatte does not explicitly show when a message is given, searches for the content of an action corresponding to the given message by using the message body of the given message as a search key.

In a relate art, Suzuki discloses when a message [= object 1 **172** of fig.11] is given, searches [= search key input area **41**] for the content of an action corresponding

to the given message [col.6, ll.4 through col.7, ll.6] by using the message body [= data body **23**] of the given message as a search key [= keywords **20**] [figs.2 and 11-12].

Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify Thatte in view of Klimczak, and further in view of Suzuki by corresponding action with a message body as a search key because this feature cause a simple configuration of data processing of the external object reference management section [Suzuki, col.10, ll.41-43]. It is for this reason that one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention would have been motivated in order to avoid the complexity of the processing mechanism [Suzuki, col.10, ll.35-36].

6. With respect to claims 2 and 9, Thatte further teaches classification of the message type has a hierarchy, and a message type header representing message type contains information representing the hierarchy of the classification of the message type, and by applying the hierarchy of the classification of the message type, the message type classifying and matching part stores and holds a message type dealt with by the message and reaction relationship storing part, analyzes a message type of the received message, and conducts matching of the message type [col. 22, ln.29 - col.28, ln.18].

7. With respect to claim 3, Thatte further teaches the message type is defined by using an idea of inheritance in object-oriented programming, and the hierarchy of the classification of the message type contains a hierarchy of classification of a class

derivation message type and a class derivation origin message type [col.23, lns.43-60 and col.1, ln.15 - col.2, ln.58].

7. With respect to claim 5, Thatte further teaches for synchronization processing between objects, action contents desired to be subjected to the synchronization processing are described by using the object entity name to be an entity name rewrite target by the entity name rewrite object, in the message and action relationship storing part of an object to be a slave, and the entity name rewrite object rewrites the object entity name written as the entity name rewrite target into an object entity name to be a master object of the synchronization processing [col.4, ln.10 - col.5, ln.58].

Response to Arguments

8. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-7 and 9 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nghi V. Tran whose telephone number is (571) 272-4067. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Follansbee can be reached on (571) 272-3964. The fax phone

Art Unit: 2100

number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571.273.8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Nghi Tran
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2151

June 16, 2008
/John Follansbee/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2151